

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-30 are presented as follows:

1. – 7. Cancelled

8. (Previously Amended). The method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.

9. (Previously Amended). The method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the rabies information comprises information selected from the group consisting of a veterinarian's name, the veterinarian's phone number, alpha-numeric characters, and a year.

10. (Previously Amended). The method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the pet owner contact information comprises information selected from the group consisting of the pet owner's name, the pet owner's address, and the pet owner's telephone number.

11. (Currently Amended). A computer program stored on a computer-readable memory device for operating a computer to aid in locating lost pets, the computer program comprising:

a code segment for receiving rabies information corresponding to the rabies information on a first side of a rabies tag issued to a pet and pet owner contact information for the pet to which the rabies tag was issued;

a code segment for storing the rabies information and the pet owner contact information in computer-readable memory accessible by a host computer;

a code segment for permitting a person who finds the pet to access the host computer via a communications network from information on a second side of the rabies tag issued to the pet, and to enter information from the rabies tag relating to the lost pet;

a code segment for comparing the information from the rabies tag entered by the person who found the pet to the rabies information from the rabies tag for the pet in an attempt to find a match; and,

a code segment for providing the person who found the lost pet with the pet owner contact information for the lost pet, if a match is found.

12. Cancelled.

13. Cancelled.

14. (Previously Amended). The computer program as set forth in claim 11, wherein the rabies information comprises information selected from the group consisting of a name of the veterinarian for the pet, the veterinarian's phone number, alpha-numeric characters, and a year.

15. (Previously Amended). The computer program as set forth in claim 11, wherein the pet owner contact information comprises information selected from the group consisting of the pet owner's name, the pet owner's address, and the pet owner's phone number.

16. (Currently Amended). A system to aid in locating lost pets, the system comprising:

a host computer accessible via a communications network and programmed to:

receive rabies information corresponding to rabies information on a first side of a rabies tag issued to a pet and pet owner contact information for the pet to which the rabies tag was issued;

store the rabies information and the pet owner contact information in computer-readable memory accessible by a host computer;

permit a person who finds a pet to access the host computer via a communications network from information on a second side of the rabies tag and to enter information from the first side of the rabies tag relating to the lost pet;

compare the information from the rabies tag entered by the person who found the pet to the received rabies information in an attempt to find a match; and,

provide the person who found the lost pet with the pet owner contact information for the lost pet if a match is found.

17. –22. Cancelled.

23. (Previously Amended). The system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the rabies information comprises information selected from the group consisting of alpha-numeric characters, and a year.

24. (Previously Amended). The system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the pet owner contact information comprises information selected from the group consisting of the pet owner's name, the pet owner's address, and the pet owner's telephone number.

25. Cancelled.

26. (Currently Amended). A method for locating a lost pet comprising:

(a) issuing a rabies tag to a pet, the rabies tag including a first side and a second side, the first side including rabies information, and the second side including information for accessing a host computer via a communications network and to enter the rabies information from the rabies tag relating to the lost pet;

(b) submitting the rabies information from the rabies tag relating to the pet and pet owner contact information to a computer-readable memory accessible by a host computer, whereby a submitting party is selected from the group consisting of veterinarians and pet owners;

(c) storing the rabies tag information and the pet owner contact information in a computer-readable memory accessible by a host computer;

(d) comparing in the host computer, the rabies information from the rabies tag, entered by the person who found the pet, to the submitted rabies tag information in an attempt to find a match; and,

(e) providing the person who found the lost pet with the pet owner contact information for the lost pet if a match is found.

27. (Previously Amended). The method as set forth in claim 26, wherein the information for accessing a host computer includes, an address for the host computer.

28. – 30. Cancelled.